

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend page 2, line 23 – page 3, line 5 to read as follows:

"Of the many Dahlia cultivars known to the inventor, ~~the most similar to~~ 'Melody Lizza' can be compared to the cultivar is 'Melody Dixie' (U. S. Plant Patent No.12, 911) and the cultivar 'Gallery Bellini' (U.S. Plant Patent No. 14,162). However, in side by side comparisons, 'Melody Lizza' differs from 'Melody Dixie' in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of 'Melody Lizza' exhibit darker foliage color than do plants of 'Melody Dixie'.
2. The flowers of 'Melody Lizza' are pink-bicolor whereas those of 'Melody Dixie' are cream-white in the center with lilac-purple margins ~~solid pink~~.
3. The plant habit of 'Melody Lizza' is much more branching with shorter internodes than 'Melody Dixie' which has a more stretching habit.

Futhermore, in side by side comparaisons 'Melody Lizza' differs from 'Gallery Bellini' in the following characteristics.

1. Plants of 'Melody Lizza' are more branching than plants of 'Gallery Bellini'.
2. Plants of 'Melody Lizza' are taller than plants of 'Gallery Bellini'."